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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Great Lakes Regional Office

# Contaminated Sediments

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has a number of authorities for assisting States, local governments, and Native American Indian tribes in the management of contaminated bottom sediments. These programs provide cost-shared support, not grants. This fact sheet will discuss authorities which may be applicable to contaminated sediment sites within the Great Lakes basin. These programs were authorized under the various Water Resources Development Acts (WRDA).

## Great Lakes Remedial Action Plans

**Authorization:** Section 401 of WRDA 1990, as amended.

**Program Goals:** To provide technical, planning and engineering assistance to States and local governments in the development and implementation of remedial action plans (RAPs) for Great Lakes areas of concern.

**Application:** Contaminated sediments have been identified as a significant problem at all 31 Great Lakes areas of concern within the U.S. Corps districts are developing plans for remediation of contaminated sediments in support to the Ashtabula River (Ohio) and Grand Calumet River (Indiana) RAPs.

**Cost Sharing:** 50% Federal, 50% Non-Federal

**Budgetary:** Annual funding not to exceed \$3,000,000. The anticipated FY 1998 appropriation for this program is \$500,000.

## Beneficial Use of Dredged Material

**Authorization:** Section 204 of WRDA 1992.

**Program Goals:** Protect, restore and create aquatic habitat, including wetlands, in connection with dredging at authorized Federal navigation projects.

**Application:** Sediments dredged from navigation channels have been used for the construction of islands in coastal and backwater areas in order to restore nesting habitat for migratory waterfowl. A dredged material disposal facility on the Rouge River was configured to restore and protect a coastal wetland.

**Cost Sharing:** 75% Federal, 25% Non-Federal; operation and maintenance costs are Non-Federal.

**Budgetary:** Annual funding not to exceed \$15,000,000 Corps-wide. The anticipated FY 1998 appropriation for this program is \$2,000,000.

## **Environmental Dredging**

**Authorization:** Section 205 of WRDA 1996.

**Program Goals:** To provide for the removal of contaminated sediments outside the boundaries of Federal navigation channels as part of the operation and maintenance on a navigation project. Actions to be taken in consultation with the USEPA.

**Cost Sharing:** 50% Federal, 50% Non-Federal for incremental dredging costs. Disposal costs for contaminated sediments are a Non-Federal cost.

**Budgetary:** Annual funding not to exceed \$20,000,000 Corps-wide. The anticipated FY 1998 appropriation includes \$125,000 for environmental dredging at the Buffalo River.

## **Dredged Material Disposal Facility Partnerships**

**Authorization:** Section 217 of WRDA 1996.

**Program Goals:** The Corps can partner with Non-Federal interests in the development and use of disposal facilities for dredged material.

**Application:** Partnerships between Corps districts and non-Federal interests are ongoing at Indiana Harbor and Ashtabula Harbor, where plans are being developed for a confined disposal facility (CDF) for contaminated

sediments to achieve both navigation and environmental objectives.

**Cost Sharing:** The portion of the disposal facility serving navigation needs is cost shared according to Section 201 of WRDA 1996. Portion(s) of the facility serving other needs are a Non-Federal responsibility.

**Budgetary:** No specific appropriation is needed for this authority.

## **For More Information**

In order to obtain more information about the application of any of these programs in the Great Lakes basin, contact the following Corps District offices for sites in:

### **New York, PA and Ohio**

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Buffalo District  
716-879-4145  
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### **Michigan, MN and WI**

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